

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A joist holder (~~100~~) including a preformed sleeve of water-impermeable material (~~102~~) for receiving one end of a joist, the sleeve being mountable on a wall (~~200~~).

2. (Currently Amended) A holder (~~100~~) according to Claim 1, wherein one end of the sleeve (~~102~~) is closed by a base portion (~~104~~) so that the holder forms a box with one open end.

3. (Currently Amended) A holder (~~100~~) according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, including a flange (~~108~~) that extends transversely from one or more edges of the open end of the sleeve (~~102~~).

4. (Currently Amended) A holder (~~100~~) according to Claim 3, where, in use, the flange (~~108~~) abuts the surface of the wall (~~200~~) into which the joist is inserted.

5. (Currently Amended) A holder (~~100~~) according to Claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the flange (~~108~~) includes one or more apertures (~~100~~) for screws or the like.

6. (Currently Amended) A holder (~~100~~) according to ~~anyone of~~ Claim[[s]] 3 to

5, wherein the width of the flange (108) is around 25 to 75 millimetres.

7. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, wherein an outer surface of the sleeve (102) includes protrusions or ridges in order to improve adhesion to cement or the like.

8. (Currently Amended) A holder (400) according to Claim 7, wherein the protrusions comprise a plurality of diagonal lines (408) extending across the sleeve (102) surface.

9. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, wherein the holder is dimensioned to substantially correspond to dimensions of standard joists.

10. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to Claim 9, wherein the sleeve. is dimensioned to securely fit around the end of a 102 x 47 millimetres; 127 millimetres x 47 millimetres; 152 x 47 millimetres; 203 x 47 millimetres or 228 millimetres x 47 millimetres rectangular joist.

11. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~

Claim[[s]] 3, wherein the joist holder is formed of metal or plastic material.

12. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, wherein the surfaces of the holder are coated with a material such as rubber to provide increased friction.

13. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, wherein the depth of the sleeve corresponds to the depth of a standard building block or brick.

14. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, including an extension (215) of an end wall of the sleeve (102) to assist with bearing the load of a joist in use.

15. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to Claim 14, wherein the extension (215) includes one or more apertures (217) to allow screws' or the like to fix the underside of a joist to the extension in use.

16. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, wherein the sleeve (102) is at least partially formed of transparent or

semi-transparent material.

17. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to Claim 16, wherein at least one end wall of the sleeve (102) includes a panel formed of transparent or semi-transparent material.

18. (Currently Amended) A holder (100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, wherein the holder is formed of, or coated with, fire and/or smoke and/or fume resistant material.

19. (Currently Amended) A holder (400) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, wherein at least one sidewall of the sleeve (402) includes an aperture (406), in use, the aperture being used to allow a fixing device, such as a nail, to be inserted through the sleeve to a joist fitted in the holder.

20. (Currently Amended) A holder (400) according to Claim 19, wherein the aperture is located about midway across the width of the sleeve sidewall(s).

21. (Currently Amended) A holder (400) according to Claim 19 ~~or 20~~, wherein opposing said sidewalls of the sleeve (402) each include a said aperture, one of the apertures

(406) being offset horizontally and/or vertically from the other aperture.

22. (Currently Amended) A kit for mounting a joist in a wall (200) including a holder(100) according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ Claim[[s]] 3, and a substantially L-shaped bracket (304), in use, one portion (306) of the bracket being fixed to the wall and another portion (308) of the bracket being fixed to a side surface of a joist inserted into the holder.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting a joist in a wall (200) including steps of:

inserting an end of a joist into a preformed sleeve of water-impermeable material (102), and mounting the sleeve onto the wall.

24. (Original) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the inserting step takes place before the mounting step.

25. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein a step of inserting a fixing device, such as a nail, through an aperture in the sleeve and into the joist is performed before mounting the sleeve onto the wall.

26. (Original) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the mounting step takes

place before the inserting step.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 23, further including a step of placing wallbuilding materials around and/or on top of the mounted sleeve (102).

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to anyone of Claims 23 to 26, including a step of further securing the sleeve to the wall [[, e.g.]] by inserting screws through a flange extending around one end of the sleeve to fix the sleeve to the wall.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to anyone of Claims 23 to 28, further including steps of fixing one portion (306) of a substantially L-shaped bracket (304) to the wall and fixing another portion (308) of the bracket to a side surface of the joist inserted into the holder.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting a joist including steps of:
positioning a joist end into a preformed sleeve (102) of water- impermeable material, and

locating the sleeve in a course (201-207) of building blocks or the like, wherein the steps of positioning and locating can be performed in either order.

31. (Currently Amended) A sleeve (~~102~~) for a joist comprising a water impermeable preformed wall for at least partially encircling an end of the joist for preventing water penetration to the joist end, wherein the sleeve is dimensioned to have a depth approximately equal to a standard building block, the sleeve further including an anchor portion (~~108~~) for anchoring to the face of a block work wall.

32. (Currently Amended) A building structure including joists mounted by means of a joist holder (~~100~~) according to ~~anyone of Claim[[s]] 1 to 22.~~

33. (Currently Amended) A building structure including joists mounted according to the method of ~~anyone of Claim[[s]] 23 to 30.~~

34. (Currently Amended) An assembly including a joist and a joist holder according to ~~anyone of Claim[[s]] 1 to 22.~~

35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A building structure including joists mounted according to the method of Claim 23.